

REMARKS

This Amendment responds to the final Office Action mailed February 15, 2006 and the Advisory Action mailed May 11, 2006, and supplements the Request for Reconsideration mailed April 17, 2006. A Request for Continued Examination (RCE) accompanies this Amendment. Based on the foregoing amendments and the following comments, reconsideration and allowance of the application are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-18 are currently pending in the application. Independent claims 1, 5, 8, 12 and 15 have been amended. No new matter has been added.

The Examiner has finally rejected claims 1-18 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Bommaiah et al. (AmRoute Internet Draft 1998), and further in view of English (US 6,757,553), Trompower (US 5,924,040) and Proctor Jr., (US 2003/0048770). The rejection is respectfully traversed in view of the amended claims.

Amended claim 1 is directed to a method for adding nodes to a wireless mesh network, comprising adjusting an antenna sensitivity pattern of one or more nodes in the wireless mesh network to exhibit spatial selectivity to enable communication with a wireless node that is out of range of an omnidirectional antenna sensitivity pattern, transmitting a query using the adjusted antenna sensitivity pattern, and if a response to the query transmitted using the adjusted antenna sensitivity pattern is received from a responding wireless node within a predetermined time period, adding the responding wireless node to the mesh network.

As noted previously, Bommaiah teaches adding nodes to a wireless mesh network, but contains no disclosure whatever of antennas or adjusting antenna spatial selectivity patterns. English, Trompower and Proctor teach various applications of directional antennas, but contain no disclosure of adding nodes to a wireless mesh network. The references, taken individually or in combination, do not teach a method for adding nodes to a wireless mesh network, including *adjusting an antenna sensitivity pattern to exhibit spatial selectivity to enable communication with a*

wireless node that is out of range of an omnidirectional antenna sensitivity pattern, transmitting a query using the adjusted sensitivity pattern and, if a response to the query is received from a responding wireless node within a predetermined time period, adding the responding wireless node to the mesh network, as required by amended claim 1. The method for adding nodes to a wireless mesh network defined by amended claim 1 is simply not taught by Bommaiah, English, Trompower and Proctor, taken individually or in combination. For these reasons, amended claim 1 is clearly and patentably distinguished over Bommaiah in view of English, Trompower and Proctor, and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested. Claims 2-4 depend from claim 1 and are patentable over the cited references for at least the same reasons as claim 1.

Independent claim 8 is directed to a wireless device and contains device limitations that parallel the method limitations of claim 1. Independent claim 15 is directed to a computer readable medium having computer executable instructions that parallel the method limitations of claim 1. Claims 9-11 depend from claim 8, and claims 16-18 depend from claim 15. Claims 8-11 and 15-18 are patentable over Bommaiah in view of English, Trompower and Proctor for at least the reasons discussed above in connection with claim 1.

Amended claim 5 is directed to a method for supporting data connections between three or more wireless devices, comprising adjusting the sensitivity pattern of an antenna on a first wireless device to enable communication with a second wireless device that is out of range of an omnidirectional antenna sensitivity pattern, communicating with the second wireless device using the adjusted sensitivity pattern, and further adjusting the sensitivity pattern of the antenna on the first wireless device to enable communication with a third or more wireless devices that are out of range of the omnidirectional sensitivity pattern.

The combined teachings of Bommaiah, English, Trompower and Proctor do not disclose or suggest *adjusting the sensitivity pattern of an antenna to enable communication with a wireless device that is out of range of an omnidirectional antenna sensitivity pattern, and communicating with the wireless device using the adjusted sensitivity pattern,* as required by amended claim 5. For

these reasons, amended claim 5 is clearly and patentably distinguished over Bommaiah in view of English, Trompower and Proctor. Claims 6 and 7 depend from claim 5 and are patentable over the cited references for at least the same reasons as claim 5.

Claim 12 is directed to a computer readable medium having computer executable instructions that parallel the method limitations of claim 5. Claims 13 and 14 depend from claim 12. Claims 12-14 are clearly patentable over Bommaiah in view of English, Trompower and Proctor for at least the same reasons as claim 5.

Based upon the above discussion, claims 1-18 are in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

A Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested. The Examiner is requested to call the undersigned at the telephone number listed below if this communication does not place the case in condition for allowance.

If this response is not considered timely filed and if a request for an extension of time is otherwise absent, Applicant hereby requests any necessary extension of time. If there is a fee occasioned by this response, including an extension fee, that is not covered by an enclosed check, please charge any deficiency to Deposit Account No. 23/2825.

Dated: June 15, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

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